

In the claims:

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

12. (new) A cordless screwdriver, comprising a housing; a handle; a rechargeable battery formed as a lithium-ion cell; charging contact tabs for charging said rechargeable battery; and an output spindle, the cordless screwdriver as a whole being placeable onto a charging cradle which automatically initiates a charging mode and in the charging mode being positioned on the charging cradle so that with regard to said output spindle it is inclined and an end of said output spindle points downwards.

13. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle is angled relative to said housing in pistol fashion.

14. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing and said handle are configured so that in the charging mode said housing and said handle are received in the charging cradle.

15. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle is configured so that in the charging mode it protrudes out from the charging cradle to permit a hand to easily grasp said handle from underneath and/or reach all the way around it in order to remove the cordless screwdriver.

16. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle has lateral slots, said charging contact tabs protruding outwards through said lateral slots for engagement with charging contacts of the charging cradle without requiring an attachment of a separate cable or a plug connector.

17. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 16, wherein said housing with said handle are composed of two casting halves which are joined to each other along a central plane, each of said slots and a recess surrounding said slots being situated in one of said casting halves and spaced equidistantly apart from said central plane.

18. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle has recesses configured so that in the charging mode the cordless screwdriver rests with said recesses in said handle so as to cover charging contacts of the charging cradle and by engaging over the charging contacts is secured against an undesired detachment from the charging cradle.

19. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein the charging cradle has a top provided with beds for accommodating the cordless screwdriver and corresponding to an imprint of outer surfaces of an inner angle enclosed by said handle and said housing, which said housing is composed of a

motor housing and a transmission housing, at least one of the beds extending at an inclination of less than 90°.

20. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said charging cradle has a bed in which said handle protrudes in wedge fashion with only its on/off button and said handle itself protrudes from the charging cradle and is only minimally inserted into said bed.

21. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein the cradle is formed so that it is placeable in a stable fashion on a flat supporting surface without having to mount the charging cradle in place or hold it when removing the cordless screwdriver.

22. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 21, wherein the charging cradle is configured so that it is placeable in a stable fashion on the flat supporting surface which is a horizontal supporting surface.

23. (New) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12; and further comprising an on/off button which extends over substantially an entire length of said handle and with an actuating stroke of 1-5 mm is actuatable to switch on at any point along its length.

24. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 23, wherein said on/off button is configured so that it is actuatable with the short actuation stroke of 2 mm.

25. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing has casing halves; and further comprising a circuit board for accommodating electrical contacts and control elements and extending lengthwise in said handle so as to be held in clamp fashion by said casting halves of said housing and to stiffen said housing.

26. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing is composed of casing halves, said handle on each side of said casing half having a rubber covering that covers a large area, bulges outward, and is provided with a nubbed structure.

27. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing has a motor housing and a transmission housing, said handle, said motor housing and said transmission housing being configured so that they are receivable in the charging cradle to be held in the charging cradle during the charging mode.

28. (new) A cordless screwdriver as defined in claim 12, , wherein said housing has a motor housing and a transmission housing, said motor

housing and said transmission housing being configured so that they are receivable in the charging cradle to be held in the charging cradle during the charging mode.